[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Do the Government expect to finish the construction of the bridges by the end of this year?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The Chief Engineer has promised to take up these works early and he expects to finish them as early as possible.

Talukwar Figures of Revenue.

210. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: With reference to the answer to Question 28 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 31st July, 1922, will the Government be pleased to state the items of revenue for which talukwar figures are available?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Talukwar figures are available only for land revenue.

Private Tanneries at Alleppey.

211. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds that induced the Government to take off the licenses of the private tanneries which were existing in Alleppey?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Government have no information that any private tanneries ever existed in Alleppey.

Supply of leather goods for Government purposes.

212. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) from which company the Government at present get their supply of leather goods; and

(*b*) whether it is not possible to get these articles from leather manufacturers in the State itself?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) & (*b*). The departments that use leather goods are the Military, the Police, the Excise and the Anchal. The Excise Commissioner and the Anchal Superintendent obtain their leather goods from leather manufacturers in Travancore. The leather goods required by the Nayar Brigade are "ammunition boots" and "accoutrements". These are obtained from Messrs. Cooper Allen and Co., Cawnpore. The Commandant states that it is possible to get such articles made up locally, but not of the quality and at the prices of those supplied by Messrs. Cooper Allen and Co. The Commissioner of Police states that the contracts for leather goods for the current year have been sold to local manufacturers. The contractor for belts has furnished samples which could not be accepted by Mr. Pitt; and he intends, with the sanction of Government, to place the order with Messrs. Cooper Allen and Co., Cawnpore. He states that the boots obtained locally in 1097 have proved unsatisfactory and that it may be necessary to obtain the 1099 supply from Cawnpore.

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MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: May I know how it was that the leather goods found satisfactory by the Anchal Superintendent and the Excise Commissioner were not found satisfactory by the Commandant?

PRESIDENT: I think I may explain that. The goods indented for by the Excise Commissoner and the Anchal Superintendent are not the same as those indented for by the Commandant. The pouches and other articles required by the Anchal Superintendent, the local manufactures are able to make satisfactorily.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the cost of a pair of boots locally made and that of a pair which is foreign-made?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise now.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I rise to a point of order. I want to know whether the President of the Council can answer interpellations.

PRESIDENT: The President can speak at any time.

Antakara Azhi.

213. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the annual cost of closing and opening the Antakara Azhi.

(*b*) whether this work cannot be given to private contractors, at a cheaper rate; and

(*c*) whether this work was ever given to private contractors, and if so, what the amount for which the work was given was, and whether the work was done properly?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The annual cost of the work fluctuates according to the nature of the current and tides in the sea at the time of closing and opening the bar. The annual cost may, however, be roughly fixed at Rs. 3,766, which is the average for the years from 1090 to 1097, except in 1096 when the expenditure was higher, as several attempts had to be made for closing the bar.

(*b*) The work can be given to reliable contractors provided they come forward to take it up at a moderate cost.

(*c*) The work was given on contract to Mr. Avira Tarakan of Parayil in Shertallai during 1096 for Rs. 3,750, but on actual execution he had to be paid an *extra* sum of Rs. 1,495. The work done by the contractor is reported to have been unsatisfactory on the whole.

Yield of Sweet Toddy.

214. MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of sweet toddy approximately yielded per year by 957 cocoanut, 165 palmyra and 128 sago palm trees (*vide* Administration Report for 1096)?

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